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**DRUG CHARGES FILED AGAINST PHILADELPHIA POLICE DETECTIVE,
TWO OFFICERS, AND 12 OTHERS**

Keith Gidelson, a Philadelphia Police Detective, and 14 others were charged in a 17-count indictment¹, unsealed today, with conspiracy to distribute anabolic steroids, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Also named in the indictment are fellow police officers Joseph McIntyre and George Sambuca, Gidelson's wife, Kirsten, Robert James Walters, Jay Guiliano, Michael Supilowski, Michael Barclay, Keith Ebner, Jeffrey Filoon, Christian Kowalko, Joel Levin, Luke Lors, Williams Schiavo, and Vaidotas Verikas. Arrests were made this morning.

The indictment alleges that Keith Gidelson operated an anabolic steroid and human growth hormone ("HGH") distribution organization in Philadelphia and throughout the United States. The indictment further alleges that Gidelson acquired steroids from foreign suppliers and then sold these steroids to his co-conspirators who distributed the drugs to their own customers.

"Police officers take an oath to uphold the law," said Memeger. "When an officer breaks the law he not only violates his oath, he violates the public's trust. This indictment alleges that three officers placed personal gain ahead of their duty to follow the law."

"The use of anabolic steroids has been strongly correlated with life threatening illnesses; making adults more susceptible to HIV infection; higher rates for cancer and heart failure when compared to the general public," said DEA Special Agent-in-Charge John J. Bryfonski. "Alarming, abuse of anabolic steroids among young Americans has reached dangerous levels, placing our children at risk of heart disease, liver cancer, stunted growth, depression, eating disorders as well as increased hostility and aggression, all in a misguided effort to achieve fleeting success that too often ends in tragedy. In this case, a person who holds a position of public trust is alleged to have placed these very harmful substances into the very same hands he was entrusted to protect."

"The anabolic steroids that are alleged to have been sold throughout Philadelphia and across the U.S. by these defendants are dangerous, illegal drugs from foreign countries, represented as legitimate pharmaceutical compounds," said FBI Special Agent-in-Charge George C. Venizelos.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.